



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX KENTUCKY 40121-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZK-S (385)

6 December 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters
Commanders, Fort Knox Partners in Excellence
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

SUBJECT: Thunderbolt Six Policy Memo No. 38-26 – Command Safety

1. References.

- a. AR 385-10, The Army Safety Program, 23 May 1988.
- b. TRADOC Reg 385-2, TRADOC Safety Program, 27 January 2000.
- c. FK Reg 385-10, Fort Knox Force Protection (Safety), 13 March 1998.
- d. FM 100-14, Risk Management, 23 April 1998.

2. Safety violations or "accidents" occur for one of three reasons. First, there is no standard; second, soldiers ignore the standard; or third, leaders do not enforce the standard. We are a standards-based organization - so lacking, ignoring, or failing to enforce standards are not options.

3. Safety is an inherent command responsibility and an important component of Force Protection. As such I am the Safety Officer and the Command Sergeant Major is the Safety Noncommissioned Officer for the US Army Armor Center and Fort Knox. Furthermore, I expect each commander and director to be the Safety Officer and each Command Sergeant Major and First Sergeant to be the Safety Noncommissioned Officer for their unit or organization. In my capacity as the Commander of the Armor Center I am committed to ensuring the safety and health of our soldiers, family members, civilian employees, and visitors.

4. "Accidents" cause injuries, tragic loss of life and equipment, needless suffering, and impair mission performance and quality of life. I will not accept "accidents" as a part of doing business and expect all reasonable actions be taken to prevent them. Every soldier and civilian employee

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on Fort Knox has my permission to stop an unsafe act, which endangers life or limb, on the spot. I expect the chain of command to take action and prevent recurrences.

5. My safety program objectives are clear:

- a. Zero lives lost due to accidents; this applies both on and off duty.
- b. A 10 percent reduction in recordable accidents over the past 3-year average.
- c. A safety program in compliance with Army, TRADOC, and local safety standards.
- d. A 15 percent reduction in DUIs in FY 02 and 10 percent reduction in FY 03.

6. The USAARMC and Fort Knox safety program will focus on three areas.

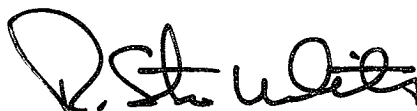
a. Training Soldiers. I charge every leader, officer, NCO, and civilian employee with the responsibility to understand the risk associated with the mission and to take action that ensures the safety of soldiers in training. Enforce the standards!

b. Risk Management. The Army's 5-step Risk Management process will be integrated into all missions and actions. Daily risk assessments will be conducted and actions taken to eliminate hazards or mitigate risk to the lowest level. Risk Management is an ongoing process that must be updated when changes occur. Know the standards!

c. Vehicle Safety. Units and organizations will conduct an aggressive safety program that focuses on primary causes, i.e., alcohol and drug use, speeding, driving fatigued, failure to wear seat belts, and inattention. These programs will include a full inspection program and include not only military vehicles but also privately-owned vehicles.

7. I am convinced that not only is it possible to combine mission effectiveness with safe operations, but that successful operations demand it.

FORGE THE THUNDERBOLT!



R. STEVEN WHITCOMB
Major General, USA
Commanding

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DCG, USAARMC